

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/014,853

Examiner

Christina Ildebrando

Applicant(s)

CARATI ET AL.

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed 11/28/03 and the telephone interview of 2/17/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-35.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been resolved in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 02/27/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Frederick Vastine on February 17, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 34 (Amended):

A process for preparing zeolitic catalysts in extruded form, which comprises:

(a) preparing an aqueous alkaline mother liquor containing alumina and silica precursors and optionally an organic templating agent;

(b) hydrothermally treating said mother liquor thereby obtaining a suspension containing zeolite crystals, silicates or amorphous silica aluminate and optionally (i) organic templating agent and product generated by decomposition of the organic templating agent and optionally (ii) alcohol derived by the decomposition of said silica and alumina precursors;

(c) treating the suspension of zeolite crystals in the crystallization mother liquor containing the crystals with an aqueous acid solution to change the pH to a pH ranging from 3 to 8;

(d) filtering or decanting the resulting mixture to separate the zeolite crystals;

(e) drying the crystals;

(f) calcining the crystals;

(g) effecting an ion exchange in the zeolite crystals in an aqueous solution containing an acid or ammonium salt;

(h) filtering or decanting the ion exchange zeolite crystals and subjecting the crystals to washing;

(i) drying the crystals; and

(j) calcining the crystals to remove ammonium ion therefrom in the event said ion exchange is conducted with ammonium salt and the acid form of the zeolite catalyst is required; and

(k) extruding the [product prepared by the method of Claim 26] crystals in a mixture with a ligand.

Claim 35 (Amended):

A process for preparing zeolitic catalysts in extruded form, which comprises:

(a) preparing an aqueous alkaline mother liquor containing alumina and silica precursors and optionally an organic templating agent;

(b) hydrothermally treating said mother liquor thereby obtaining a suspension containing zeolite crystals, silicates or amorphous silica aluminate and optionally (i) organic templating agent and product generated by decomposition of the organic templating agent and optionally (ii) alcohol derived by the decomposition of said silica and alumina precursors;

(c) treating the alkaline suspension of zeolite crystals in the mother liquor with an acid until the suspension attains a pH ranging from 3 to 8;

(d) filtering or decanting the resulting mixture to isolate the zeolite crystals;

(e) exchanging the zeolite with an aqueous solution containing an acid or ammonium salt;

(f) filtering or decanting the zeolite crystals to effect separation thereof;

(g) drying the zeolite crystals; and

(h) calcining the crystals to remove residual templating agent and ammonium ion in the event the ion exchange reaction is conducted with an ammonium salt; and

(i) extruding the [product prepared by the method of Claim 27] crystals in a mixture with a ligand.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach a process for separating zeolite crystals from an aqueous medium comprising the instantly claimed steps (a) – (d) in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina Ildebrando whose telephone number is (571)

272-1176. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-5, with Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAI
February 17, 2004

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